NOTES FROM THE FIELD.

DEAR EVANGELIST:—I will inform the Missionary Committee, that they made no mistake, when they appointed Sister Katie Hershberger, as one of the Solicitors, for the Missionary Fund. She leaves no stone unturned, or pocket book untouched. "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." If you can picture a sister before your eyes, in that kind of style, you have a pretty good imagination of her. I have sent $12 to Bro. Kilhefner for Missionary Fund and three dollars previous to this, which makes $15 for her. If there were such sisters in every congregation, many would be aroused from their lethargy to a sense of their duty.

LEWIS HANG.

Louisville, Ohio.

Oakville, Ind.

DEAR EVANGELIST:—As many members as there are at this place, it seems that all are backward in writing for the paper, although every one takes it.

But while you do not often hear from this place, do not think that we are not working for our "dear Master." I think that every one are striving in their weak way and manner to do all the good they can.

Bro. Swihart will be here again the 25th, or near that time, and how glad we will be too see the good "Messenger" sent out by the Lord to call the sinners home.

All the members here are anxiously awaiting his return. I only wish he would do as much good as he did before.

Bro. Mason, although you are a stranger to me, you have my sympthy in your sad bereavement. But it will not be long until you will cross the other shore and join your dear companion.

"We'll all gather home in the morning
At the sound of the great jubilee,
And meet all our friends gone before us
What a gathering that will be."

Bro. Swihart it pleases me to see pieces in the paper written by you. Write oftener. Brothers every where. When you pray remember the little Christian Band at Oakville. Yours in Christian love

BERTHA JOHNSON.

December 7, 1886.

Itasca, Kansas.

Myself and family have located five miles south of the center of Sherman county. There are no Brethren in this county, expect Bro. J. F. Cline and family. He is a minister in the first degree of the G. B. church. We are members of the G. B. church. At the same time, I do recognize brethren as brethren whenever I can get to see them. We are very anxious for some of the brethren to move to this county, as we think we surely have a good country. This county has just been settled this past summer. I think I never saw a nicer laying country; the soil is good and deep, averaging from 2 to 4 feet in depth, no sand to hurt, no hard-pan. There is no timber. Good water at the depth of from 80 to 125 and in abundance. The wild grass is principally Buffalo grass; some blue stem. I never saw better cron and potatoes, turnips, etc. The climate is good. We never had better health than since we were here. There is no government land vacant in the county, but there are good chances for brethren to get homes cheap. Relinquishments on claimes can be bought at from $50 to $500 per ¼ section. Land is going up very fast. Now Brethren, if any want any furthur particulars in regard to the country, you can address me at Itasca, Sherman Co., Kan. Brethren the object I have in writing this article is to get Brethren to move West and get homes and build up a church. We are anxious for a church to be started in this county. Brethren pray for us in the West.

LEVI WHISLER.

Sister Mason's Funeral at Farmersville.

On Sunday, Dec. 5th, we attended services at Farmersville, O., the home of our bereaved brother Mason. We preached the funeral of the dear departed sister in the Brethren church at that place. The church was appropriately draped, and the congregation was very large, far beyond the seating capacity of the house, which we interpreted as an evidence of the high esteem in which our sister was held by the church and neighborhood.

The subject to us is a delicate one. Having known her from her infancy, and being associated in the strongest ties of friendship, words will not express our feelings, and the appreciation in which she was held by all who knew her. Therefore we will leave the subject rest with what has been so well said already by others.

Brother Mason requests us to say that he has received so many letters of condolence and sympathy, for which he feels truly grateful, and which he will be unable to personally acknowledge, therefore will publish a synoptical review of the sad circumstances written by brother M. and read during the services, which will answer many of the questions asked.

"Rebecca Jane Mason was born near Congress, O., August 19, 1854, and died Nov. 17, 1886 at 1:30 p. m., aged 32 years, 2 months and 29 days. Was married to Edward Mason, May 12, 1881, and as this was a complete union of hearts, love and happiness reigned in the family.

There were three children by this marriage. Two still living, and the little unnamed darling that was not permitted to open her eyes in this world, and who now lies in her mother's arms in the cold, lonely grave in Wayne county.

The evening previous to her death, after all others had retired to rest, the husband and wife talked calmly and seriously of a possibility of the worst. The mother expressed a hope that God might spare her to her husband and children, but still was willing to submit to the will of Him who doeth all things well. Mutual promises and consolations were made and given until her eyes closed in gentle, peaceful slumber. Little did the lonely watcher, as he sat by that bedside, realize the dark, black shadow that would fall the next day on that happy home.

There were no alarming symptoms until only about two hours before her death. She passed off quietly. Her last words in answer to a question from the anxious husband was "No pain."

And thus ended the life of one who, as daughter, wife, mother and Christian did what she could. And may God so bless and strengthen us all that we may meet our loved ones around the throne of God."

P. J. BROWN.

A Good Time at Ashland.

On the 28th of November, a revival meeting was commenced at the Chapel of Ashland College. Bro Isaac Kilhefner preached the first sermon, and the meetings were conducted by the young ministers of the Institution. The good work went on and six turned from the pride of sin to the loveliness of truth, and were baptized last Saturday evening, Dec. 11th. An opportunity was provided for a more congenial way, but the young converts were brave for Christ, and chose to have the solemn rite performed in a stream, as Christ was baptized in Jordan. The thick ice was cut away to get into the water, and, bravely, there they all received baptism as the Lord commanded. Bro. Ed. Hilderbrand and A. L. Garber were the administrators. Bro. G. baptized three and Bro. H. the remaining three; and all passed off orderly. This baptismal event will pass into history. The two administrators are near the same age, and this was the first service of this kind that either ever performed. As many will be interested in knowing who were baptized, their names are published. Sister Estella Drach and Grace Shoemaker came out together and were baptized by Bro. Garber, and to him they became persons of special honor because they were the first to come to the Savior, at his invitation, and first to receive baptism at his hands; and their names shall share in the honor, should any be bestowed upon his in coming time. Sister Deam Shoemaker was the third, and she is a hand in the EVANGELIST office, good and true, and this will make the association still more pleasant, and the labors together for a common interest, more congenial.

Bro. Ira Slotter was the first to be baptized by brother Hilderbrand. He is sister Laura Slotter's son, of Columbiana, Ohio. He has been in the EVANGELIST office about a year, and his companionship is made dearer by the sanctifying blood of the Lamb. The remaining two were sister Minnie Coler, of Farmersville, Ohio, and Frank Switzer, of Indiana, both students at the College. Their parents will be happy to know that they have commenced to learn of Jesus, and to learn the knowledge that will never leave them. May the Lord keep them all, and give them a crown of glory at the end.

On Sunday the 12th, a consecration service was held, at the close of the preaching service in the morning. At the singing of the hymn they came forward and took seats together, and a few words were said about the Christian life, and to each one was presented the pearl of exceeding price, a copy of the New Testament, the Brethren's Discipline, which they were requested to preserve as an evidence of the obligation they owe to God and the church, should any subsequent changes seek to put upon them what Christ has not commanded. The prayer then followed, and the hand of fellowship was extended, and thus ended an orderly and beautiful service, which impressed the large audience in attendance.

The same day cometh three sisters who were from the German Baptists and desired to be received into the fellowship of the church. The Lord had put no mark upon them and they were received with gladness. Thus ended the work to this date, Lord's day evening December 12th.

Do We Need a Convention?

In conversation with Brother Coler (the chairman of the committee on Church Charter) a few days ago I suggested that he should publish a statement of the advantages of having the Brethren church incorporated inform us in a general way as to the return of the case whether this charter applied to the church at Ashland only. As that is made the central point in the charter, or whether to the State of Ohio, or to all the local churches in the United States? And also inform the brotherhood in general as to the duty of any local church in order to avail herself of the benefit of the incorporation if any benefit there is, &c., &c.

He replied that, that will be in order after the work of the committee is accepted by the body that authorized them to act that they were appointed by a general convention of the church and their action must be reported to a similar convention for adoption or rejection. And the committee discharged before it will be of any value whatever. This is evidently the correct view of the case. All persons having any knowledge of business will see the correctness and reasonableness of this conclusion. Then it follows that the report can not be made to a convention unless there is such convention to report to, and as matters now stand we are virtually without a charter, and the question is, will the incorporation be of any benefit to us if completed? Here let me quote from the official document now in Brother Coler's hands. "The purpose for which this corporation is formed, is to perpetuate, and extend the Christian religion, and the influence of the gospel, and to that end, to promote the harmony, efficiency and progress, of all the local churches in the United States." Thus it will be seen that all the local churches in the United States have an interest in the matter and if represented in the convention that accepts and adopts the report, that being put upon record, they become entitled to whatever property rights may in time, be effected by the charter and those not so represented in the general Convention may in their local council declare themselves a part of the Brethren church and by having such action placed upon record and such record preserved, will be entitled to all the rights and benefits of the corporation, and even isolated members holding their membership in a church, no matter how far away, will be regarded in law as a part of the Brethren church, provided the church in which they hold their membership has by official act accepted the action of the convention. Taking all in all, I regard it as highly necessary to have a convention, even though there were no business to transact aside from the matter of incorporation, but we all know that there are other subjects and matters of church business, such as the Mission Cause, the Sabbath School cause and the educational question. It seems to me there should be a fund created to aid young men in limited circumstances, who wish to prepare for the ministry, and we feel like urging the matter upon the minds of the Executive Committee, and to Bro. Frame and all others of his timid frame of mind upon the subject of conventions, I would say, don't be afraid, there will be no legislative department in this convention, no, never, never. We had enough of that and it is in part to forever bar against that that we need a convention now.

This is my say, and I submit it to the Brethren for their consideration.

P. J. BROWN.

Congress, O., Dec. 10.

Pen Wavelets After Me.

R. F. MALLOTT,

Dear Bro.:

I am somewhat surprised that you should not know my address as it was mentioned plain enough in No. 48: "a plain brother of Lancaster, Pa."

Now Bro. Mallott, I am not sorry for what I have said in my article, the mark of the beast, but I am sorry to see that so many are not willing to prevent the mark of the beast, and as I have given a slight explanation and sent in to be published in this week's issue, and it was not published as I thought it should be for several reasons. First, to let the readers of the EVANGELIST know that I had no church in view, and second, that I did not surmise or premise or have any conclusions about your finely finished house of worship. My subject was. Beware of the Mark of the Beast, brethren when you build a house of worship to the honor and glory of God, and it is so yet. But my ideas were construed: I said or say so now, the world said, I thought the Brethren are a plain people, and what do I see in the EVANGELIST that the church at Milford is so handsomely built and finished with a tower and a bell and so on, and I warned the Brethren not to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers in that as in many other like things. To be like the world and allow the world to say and see the same in such things as they have in their churches; where does the peculiar people come in if we build and write about our handsome churches just as they do. I say again shun the mark of the beast; and if we dress like the world and have such a desire, it is the Mark of the Beast. So you may now perhaps, catch my ideas or views; I had no reference to your church no more than what was published, and I am very glad I have no fault to find with any of our church houses, if they are not as plainly built as they ought to be. The house will have no account to give; I was only warning the members and neither does my former admonition show partiality to them that paid much or little. I say to all, beware of the Mark of the Beast.

In conclusion, you say show me thy faith without thy works and we will show thee our faith by our works. My faith is built on humility and the word of God, what is yours built on?

J. G. KLINE.

Lancaster, Pa.